

REMARKS

By this Amendment, Applicants propose to amend claims 7 and 9 to more appropriately define the claimed subject matter and to correct informalities. Claims 1-14, 17, and 18 are pending in this application.

Allowed Claims 1-6, 14, 17, and 18

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-6, 14, 17, and 18 are allowable.

Objected-to Claim 9

The Examiner objected to claim 9 as “dependent upon a rejected base claim, but . . . allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims” (Office Action, page 6, paragraph 3).

Applicants propose to amend independent claim 7 to include subject matter from claim 9, which depends from claim 7. Thus, amended claim 7 and claims 8 and 10-13, which depend therefrom, are believed to be allowable over the cited references.

§ 102(b) Rejection of Claims 7, 8, 10, 11, and 13 over *Seki et al.*; § 103(a) Rejection of Claim 12 over *Seki et al.* and *Alamouti et al.*

The Examiner rejected claims 7, 8, 10, 11, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,694,389 to Seki et al. (“*Seki et al.*”). The Examiner also rejected claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over *Seki et al.* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,600,776 to Alamouti et al. (“*Alamouti et al.*”).

As explained above, Applicants propose to amend independent claim 7 to include subject matter from claim 9, which the Examiner indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Thus, the § 102(b) rejection of amended claim 7 and claims 8 and 10, 11, and 13, which depend therefrom, and the § 103(a) rejection of claim 12, which depends from claim 7, should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner, placing all the claims in condition for allowance. Applicants submit that the proposed amendments of claims 7 and 9 do not raise new issues or necessitate the undertaking of any additional search of the art by the Examiner, since all of the elements and their relationships claimed were either earlier claimed or inherent in the claims as examined. Therefore, this Amendment should allow for immediate action by the Examiner.

Finally, Applicants submit that the entry of the Amendment would place the application in better form for appeal, should the Examiner dispute the patentability of the pending claims.

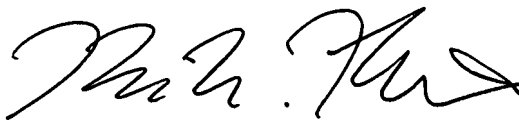
In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that this claimed invention, as amended, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the references cited against this application. Applicants therefore request the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: October 15, 2007

By: 
Reece Nienstadt
Reg. No. 52,072